

App. No. 10/678,402

Reply to Office action of December 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Summary of the Amendment**

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated December 22, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration are courteously requested. By way of the present amendment, claim 1 is amended. No claims are added or canceled. Claims 11 to 24 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement, a response to such resulted in the election of claims 1 to 10. Thus, claims 1 to 10 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claim 1 being an independent claim.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 to 10 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,814,089 (Stokes). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As filed, claim 1 recites that an implantable satellite module includes a switching module, and further recites that a lead is coupled to the switching module. Neither of these features is disclosed by Stokes. In addition, the present amendment more particularly defines the switching module by reciting that the "switching module is adapted, in response to said processor, to selectively distribute or receive signals to or from the plurality of second leads." As explained below, Stokes does not disclose a satellite module that is adapted in the manner recited in claim 1.

Although Stokes is directed to a central control module (25), and a plurality of satellite modules (26-29, following the Examiner's definitions in the Office Action), the satellite modules 26-29 are not equipped with switching modules, especially switching modules adapted to selectively distribute or receive signals to or from a plurality of leads. As depicted in FIG. 1 of Stokes, each remote unit 26-29 is disposed in a particular area of a heart (or other body region), so there is no need for a switching unit in each remote unit to discriminate between which heart region to send or receive signals to or from (see col. 3, lines 33 to 41). Stokes does indicate that each of the remote devices 26-29 may include more than one electrode (col. 3, lines 48 to 51), however there is no indication that the electrodes would function selectively or

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discriminatively with respect to one another. All the electrodes are situated in the same heart region, and appear to work together for delivering or receiving signals. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Stokes.

Claim 1 is also amended to indicate that a lead connects the satellite module to the central control module. In contrast, Stokes is focused on wireless communication between the central module 25 and the remote or satellite modules 26-29 (i.e. col. 6, lines 41 to 45). For this additional reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Stokes. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 (and claims 2 to 10 depending therefrom) be withdrawn.

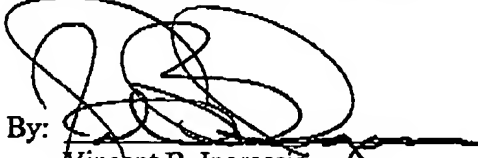
C. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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